

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, December 8, 1918, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Parker House, Boston.
Sunday, December 8, 1918. Mrs. A.G. Bell, Beinn Bhreagh, C. B. My darling Mabel:

Your telegram about Elsie and Melville and the boarder quite startled me — and I am much relieved by telegram from Bert saying that Melville is much better and is sitting up in bed, and that Elsie will be all right in a day or two and has not had the Spanish Influenza. Of course I won't stay in our house on account of the boarder's illness and Bert will engage a room for me at a hotel or somewhere where I can have a reasonable chance of escaping exposure. The epidemic seems to be subsiding everywhere. Found all well at the Clarke School although they had a fearful time of it during the summer. More than 100 cases the pupils and two deaths. One of the Supervisors too died. But that is all past — They now have a clean bill of health and no cases have appeared for a long time past.

I have had an interview with Mr. Fish, the President of the Massachusetts Board of Education, about the affairs of the Clarke School and I am glad to find that the Board have favorably considered our proposition of increasing the State appropriation by fifty dollars per pupil educated at State expense and will support it when the matter comes up before the State Legislature.

I have an appointment to meet Mr. Payson Smith, the 2 State Commissioner of Education, at the State House tomorrow morning at ten o'clock, and talk over the affairs of the Clarke School. This will end my business here — and I will go on to N. Y. and spend Tuesday at the Hotel Lorraine and see Gipsy and Stuyvesant and Rosalie. Expect to reach Washington Wednesday morning. I do hope that blessed model will be all right by the time it reaches Washington. I have arranged with Dr. Walcott to have a private exhibition of

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the model at the Smithsonian before sending it to the Bureau of Standards. Hope to find a letter from you in Washington. Much love.

Alec.